

this Part or of the Code of Professional Responsibility. FMCS will provide to the affected arbitrator written notice of removal from the Roster. Complaints about arbitrators should be in writing and sent to the Director of OAS. The complaint should cite the specific section of the Code or the FMCS rule the arbitrator has allegedly violated. The following criteria shall be a basis for the Board to recommend and/or the Director to initiate a member's removal from the Roster:

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§ 1404.6 Inactive status.

A member of the Roster who continues to meet the criteria for listing on the Roster may request that he or she be put in an inactive status on a temporary basis because of ill health, vacation, schedule, or other reasons. If the inactive status lasts longer than two (2) years and the arbitrator has not paid the annual listing fee, the arbitrator will then be removed from the Roster.

[70 FR 76398, Dec. 27, 2005]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 75 FR 30705, June 2, 2010, §1404.6 was revised, effective July 2, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 1404.6 Inactive status.

(a) A member of the Roster who continues to meet the criteria for listing on the Roster may request that he or she be put in an inactive status on a temporary basis because of ill health, vacation, schedule or other reasons.

(b) Arbitrators whose schedules do not permit cases to be heard within six months of assignment are encouraged to make themselves inactive temporarily until their caseload permits the earlier scheduling of cases.

(c) An arbitrator can remain on inactive status without paying any annual listing fee for a period of two (2) years. If an arbitrator is on inactive status for longer than two (2) years, the arbitrator will be removed from the Roster unless he or she pays the annual listing fee.

§ 1404.7 Listing fee.

All arbitrators will be required to pay an annual fee for listing on the Roster, as set forth in the Appendix to this part.

Subpart C—Procedures for Arbitration Services

§ 1404.8 Freedom of choice.

Nothing contained in this part should be construed to limit the rights of parties who use FMCS arbitration services to jointly select any arbitrator or arbitration procedure acceptable to them. Once a request is made to OAS, all parties are subject to the procedures contained in this part.

§ 1404.9 Procedures for requesting arbitration lists and panels.

(a) The Office of Arbitration Services (OAS) has been delegated the responsibility for administering all requests for arbitration services. Requests should be addressed to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Office of Arbitration Services, 2100 K Street, NW., Washington, DC 20427.

(b) The OAS will refer a panel of arbitrators to the parties upon request. The parties are encouraged to make joint requests. In the event, however, that the request is made by only one party, the OAS will submit a panel of arbitrators. However, the issuance of a panel—pursuant to either joint or unilateral request—is nothing more than a response to a request. It does not signify the adoption of any position by the FMCS regarding the arbitrability of any dispute or the terms of the parties' contract.

(c) As an alternative to a request for a panel of names, OAS will, upon written request, submit a list of all arbitrators and their biographical sketches from a designated geographical area. The parties may then select and deal directly with an arbitrator of their choice, with no further involvement of FMCS with the parties or the arbitrator. The parties may also request FMCS to make a direct appointment of their selection. In such a situation, a case number will be assigned.

(d) The OAS reserves the right to decline to submit a panel or make appointments of arbitrators, if the request submitted is overly burdensome or otherwise impracticable. The OAS, in such circumstances, may refer the parties to an FMCS mediator to help in the design of an alternative solution. The OAS may also decline to service

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any requests from parties with a demonstrated history of non-payment of arbitrator fees or other behavior which constrains the spirit or operation of the arbitration process.

(e) The parties are required to use the Request for Arbitration Panel (Form R-43), which has been prepared by the OAS and is available upon request to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, Office of Arbitration Services, Washington, DC 20427, or by calling (202) 606-5111. Form R-43 is also available on the FMCS Internet Web site, <http://www.fmcs.gov>. Requests that do not contain all required information requested on Form R-43 in typewritten form or legible handwriting may be rejected.

(f) Parties may submit requests for any standard geographical arbitration panels electronically by accessing the agency's Internet Web site, <http://www.fmcs.gov>, and receive panels via e-mail, fax or mail. Panel requests that contain certain special requirements may not be processed via the agency's internet system. Parties must provide all required information and must pay the cost of such panels using methods of payment that are accepted by the agency.

(g) The OAS will charge a nominal fee for all requests for lists, panels, and other major services. Payments for these services must be received with the request for services before the service is delivered and may be paid by either labor or management or both. A schedule of fees is listed in the Appendix to this part.

(h) The OAS will charge a fee for all requests for lists, panels, and other major services. Payments for these services must be received with the request for services before the service is delivered and may be paid by either labor or management or both. A schedule of fees is listed in the appendix to this part.

[62 FR 34171, June 25, 1997, as amended at 70 FR 76398, Dec. 27, 2005]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 75 FR 30705, June 2, 2010, §1404.9 was amended by revising paragraph (d), effective July 2, 2010. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

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§ 1404.9 Procedures for requesting arbitration lists and panels.

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(d) The OAS reserves the right to decline to submit a panel or to make an appointment of an arbitrator if the request submitted is overly burdensome or otherwise impracticable. The OAS, in such circumstances, may refer the parties to an FMCS mediator to help in the design of an alternative solution. The OAS may also decline to service any request from a party based on the party's non-payment of arbitrator fees or other behavior that constrains the spirit or operation of the arbitration process.

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§ 1404.10 Arbitrability.

The OAS will not decide the merits of a claim by either party that a dispute is not subject to arbitration.

§ 1404.11 Nominations of arbitrators.

(a) The parties may also report a randomly selected panel containing the names of seven (7) arbitrators accompanied by a biographical sketch for each member of the panel. This sketch states the background, qualifications, experience, and all fees as furnished to the OAS by the arbitrator. Requests for a panel of seven (7) arbitrators, whether joint or unilateral, will be honored. Requests for a panel of other than seven (7) names, for a direct appointment of an arbitrator, for special qualifications or other service will not be honored unless jointly submitted or authorized by the applicable collective bargaining agreement. Alternatively, the parties may request a list and biographical sketches of some or all arbitrators in one or more designated geographical areas. If the parties can agree on the selection of an arbitrator, they may appoint their own arbitrator directly without any further case tracking by FMCS. No case number will be assigned.

(b) All panels submitted to the parties by the OAS, and all letters issued by the OAS making a direct appointment, will have an assigned FMCS case number. All future communications between the parties and the OAS should refer to this case number.